

SENATE RECORD VOTE ANALYSIS

104th Congress
1st Session

Vote No. 226

May 25, 1995, 3:36 p.m.
Page S-7437 Temp. Record

BUDGET RESOLUTION/Veterans' Services

SUBJECT: Senate Concurrent Budget Resolution for fiscal years 1996-2002 . . . S. Con. Res. 13. Exon (for Wellstone) amendment No. 1195.

ACTION: AMENDMENT REJECTED, 45-55

SYNOPSIS: As reported, S. Con. Res. 13, the fiscal year 1996 Concurrent Budget Resolution, will reduce projected spending over 7 years to balance the budget by fiscal year (FY) 2002 without increasing taxes. Savings that will accrue from lower debt service payments (an estimated \$170 billion) will be dedicated to a reserve fund, which may be used for tax reductions after enactment of laws to ensure a balanced budget. Highlights include the following: the rate of growth in Medicare will be slowed to 7.1 percent; Medicaid's rate of growth will be slowed to 5 percent and it will be transformed into a block grant program; the Commerce Department and more than 100 other Federal programs, agencies, and commissions will be eliminated; welfare and housing programs will be reformed; agriculture, energy, and transportation subsidies will be cut; foreign aid will be cut; defense spending will be cut and then allowed to increase back to its 1995 level; and Social Security will not be altered.

The Exon (for Wellstone) amendment would require the Senate Finance Committee to report changes in laws within its jurisdiction to increase revenues by \$74,000 in fiscal year 1996, and would decrease the amount of revenue that the Veterans' Affairs Committee would be required to report by the same amount. Additionally, it would express the sense of the Senate that the Finance Committee should obtain the additional \$74,000 in taxes by limiting or eliminating excessive and unnecessary tax expenditures, and that the Veterans' Affairs Committee should use the additional \$74,000 to improve the delivery of veterans' services.

The amendment was offered after all debate time had expired. However, some statements on amendments were added to the record or were made before the amendments were offered and before debate time had expired. Also, by unanimous consent, 1 minute of time was allowed on each amendment for explanatory statements before each vote.

Those favoring the amendment contended:

(See other side)

YEAS (45)			NAYS (55)			NOT VOTING (0)	
Republicans (2 or 4%)	Democrats (43 or 93%)		Republicans (52 or 96%)	Democrats (3 or 7%)		Republicans (0)	Democrats (0)
Campbell	Akaka	Inouye	Abraham	Inhofe	Baucus		
Cohen	Biden	Johnston	Ashcroft	Jeffords	Glenn		
	Bingaman	Kennedy	Bennett	Kassebaum	Pell		
	Boxer	Kerrey	Bond	Kempthorne			
	Bradley	Kerry	Brown	Kyl			
	Breaux	Kohl	Burns	Lott			
	Bryan	Lautenberg	Chafee	Lugar			
	Bumpers	Leahy	Coats	Mack			
	Byrd	Levin	Cochran	McCain			
	Conrad	Lieberman	Coverdell	McConnell			
	Daschle	Mikulski	Craig	Murkowski			
	Dodd	Moseley-Braun	D'Amato	Nickles			
	Dorgan	Moynihan	DeWine	Packwood			
	Exon	Murray	Dole	Pressler			
	Feingold	Nunn	Domenici	Roth			
	Feinstein	Pryor	Faircloth	Santorum			
	Ford	Reid	Frist	Shelby			
	Graham	Robb	Gorton	Simpson			
	Harkin	Rockefeller	Gramm	Smith			
	Heflin	Sarbanes	Grams	Snowe			
	Hollings	Simon	Grassley	Specter			
		Wellstone	Gregg	Stevens			
			Hatch	Thomas			
			Hatfield	Thompson			
			Helms	Thurmond			
			Hutchison	Warner			

EXPLANATION OF ABSENCE:

- 1—Official Business
- 2—Necessarily Absent
- 3—Illness
- 4—Other

SYMBOLS:

- AY—Announced Yea
- AN—Announced Nay
- PY—Paired Yea
- PN—Paired Nay

At the end of 1993, the Department of Veterans' Affairs (VA) had a backlog of over 575,000 claims. That number is down to 400,000 claims, and the time that it takes to process a claim has declined by about half in the same time frame, to 122 days. We applaud this marked improvement, and add that we would like to see further gains. Under this budget resolution, though, such further gains are unlikely, because the Budget Committee has proposed reducing VA spending from the amount previously planned. The Wellstone amendment would fix this problem by increasing proposed VA funding, and by responsibly paying for it by eliminating special interest tax loopholes. The amendment is meritorious, and deserves our support.

No arguments were expressed in opposition to the amendment.